(b) what is the present policy with regard to allotment of coal to brick kilns in different States;

(c) whether any representations have been received in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that coal is being leaked to brick kilns in different places without proper authorization; and

(e) the steps proposed to examine the policy with regard to supply of coal for rural based industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The allotment of coal to brick kilns all over the country is based on the sponsorships issued by the nominated state sponsoring authorities subject to availability of coal. Such sponsorships, though not being insisted upon by the coal companies, is given cognizance to as and when the same is received. Besides, most of the coal offered for sale under the Open Sales Scheme (OSS) finds its way to brick sector. Further the Govt. has also earmarked certain quantities to be distributed through nominated Central/State Govt. Agencies to take care of tiny & small consumers including consumers of brick sector.

(c) Yes, Sir. The representation received are being taken care of through the schemes indicated above.

(d) and (e) There have been instances in non-core sector where diversion of coal by some of the linked industrial consumers was detected. With a view to check the same, a more transparent concept for sale of coal through e-auction has been evolved and trial runs for the same have recently been successfully conducted in some of the coal companies to take care of the needs of the consumers, big or small, including rural based industries without the restrictions of linkage/sponsorship. Morever, Govt. nominated agencies would also cater to the needs of urban as well as rural industries.

Shortage of coal

2481. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated demand of coal for running power plants in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken to import coal for power plants of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) There is a demand supply gap in respect of coal in the country. National coal demand estimated by Planning Commission for the year 2005-06 is 445.65 Mt. The indigenous supply for the year is estimated to 402.51 million tonnes. This leaves a demand supply gap of 43.14 million tonnes.

(c) Estimated demand of coal as estimated by Planning Commission for running power plants, both utilities and captive, for the year 2005-06 is 330.91 million tonnes.

(d) NTPC plans to import 1.75 lakhs tonnes of coal per month with effect from April, 2005 aggregating 2.1 million tonnes per annum.

Sale of coal

2482. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to permit sale of coal produced during the development of mines;

(b) if so, whether this coal would be sold at Government administered prices; and

(c) in what manner the price would be determined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYNA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A committee constituted in the Ministry under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary (Coal) with determine the price of coal produced during the development stage.